

Goal: Accuracy Strategy: Cross Checking... Do the pictures and/or words look right: Does it sound right?
Does it make sense?

Definition	Cross Check is a strategy for ensuring the words (and sometimes pictures) read make sense and match the letters on the page.
Why Children need this strategy	When what is read doesn't sound right or make sense. When the student comes to a word they don't know.
Secret to Success	Must be able to monitor for meaning and know when it is necessary to pause and fix-up the meaning, instead of just continuing to read. Constantly grounding reading in meaning is vital to the success of this strategy.
How we teach it	We have found the best way to teach this strategy is by guiding children to stop at the end of a sentence when what they read didn't make sense. We ask them to go back and find the word that didn't make sense. We give them highlighter tape or a special pointer to mark the word. We may also supply a sticky or even a clear acetate sheet and marking pen to lay over the text and circle the word. Once the word has been identified, we spend time teaching children the movements to go with Cross checking: "Does the word I am reading match the letters written or picture?" (here they cross their right arm over their body so the right hand touches the left shoulder). "Does it sound right?" (left arm crosses over their body so their left hand touches their right shoulder). Finally, "Does it make sense?" (both arms come down with hands pointing to the ground) By giving a kinesthetic motion to the strategy, children are more apt to remember to questions that go with the strategy. Teaching and modeling this strategy over and over all year long so children get into the habit of using it will help them learn to become readers who self-monitor their reading by stopping when it doesn't make sense and cross checking. Language we use: "While reading, ask yourself, 'Do the picture and/or letters in the word match what I am saying? Does it sound right and does it make sense?'"
Trouble Shooting	In order for this strategy to be viable for beginning readers, they must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pictures • Know some letters and some sounds • Know the location of the beginning of a word For advanced readers to be successful with Cross Checking, they must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand decoding of word parts If a child has difficulty with this strategy, break down the process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop when meaning breaks down • Look and say the letters, and word chunks in words • Use picture support Cross Checking is an accuracy strategy on the CAFÉ menu, but is also a comprehension strategy that supports children when meaning breaks down. This strategy is one of the first we teach once children have a command over the accuracy strategy, read the pictures. From the first few moments with text students are asked to cross check what they are reading which requires them to constantly think and monitor meaning.